

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S NOTE

The amendment to the specification filed 4/26/10 has been accepted.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with MICHAEL I. ANGERT on May 26, 2010.

The Claims have been amended as follows:

"9. A condensing apparatus of a dish washer having an air duct for suctioning and condensing vapor from inside a dish washer tub, the condensing apparatus comprising:
a plurality of horizontal parts forming a plurality of horizontal air duct segments;
vertical parts, extending from an upward bend at a first end of each of the plurality of horizontal air duct segments and a downward bend from a second end, opposite to the first end, wherein each upwardly bent vertical part is in fluid communication with a corresponding downwardly bent vertical part of the horizontal air duct segment immediately above it, such that the air duct folds horizontally back and forth upon itself to form a vertical stack of horizontal duct segments;

a vapor passage formed in the plurality of horizontal and vertical parts for circulating the vapor suctioned from inside the tub and generating condensed water;

a ridge within the vapor passage configured to protrude a predetermined height upward from a bottom surface of the at least one of plurality of horizontal parts for stopping and to extend across the bottom surface of the at least one of the plurality of horizontal parts in a direction in which the condensed water passing through the vapor passage is stopped by the ridge;

a condensed water discharge port formed at the air duct for discharging water condensed from the vapor into the tub; and

a vapor exhaust port spaced apart from the condensed water discharge port for exhausting vapor from which water has been removed to a space outside of the-dish washer.

11. The condensing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the ridge is formed at a point where the vapor passage transitions from the at least one of the plurality of horizontal parts to one of the vertical parts."

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding Claims 1, 3, and 6-8, the prior art fails to teach or make obvious *inter alia*, a condensing apparatus of a dish washer having a blower at a top of the condensing apparatus, an air duct forming a vapor passage, which comprises a plurality of vertically stacked

horizontal duct segments spaced apart from each other in a vertical direction, the topmost section being coupled to the blower, and each of the other horizontal segments being connected to the segment directly above it by a curved duct segment such that the air duct folds horizontally back and forth upon itself to form a vertical stack of horizontal duct segments, a condensed water discharge port at a first side of the bottommost one of the plurality of horizontal duct segments, and a vapor exhaust port spaced apart from the condensed water discharge port at another end of the bottommost one of the plurality of horizontal duct segments; wherein the air duct has a ridge which protrudes upward perpendicular to a direction of vapor being blown.

Regarding Claims 9, 11, and 14-15, the prior art fails to teach or make obvious *inter alia*, a condensing apparatus of a dish washer having a plurality of horizontal air duct segments, vertical parts which extend from an upward bend at a first end of each of the plurality of horizontal air duct segments and a downward bend from a second end, wherein each upwardly bent vertical part is in fluid communication with a corresponding downwardly bent vertical part of the horizontal air duct segment immediately above it, such that the air duct folds horizontally back and forth upon itself to form a vertical stack of horizontal duct segments, a vapor passage formed in and by the horizontal and vertical parts, a ridge within the vapor passage, a condenser water discharge port formed at the air duct, and a vapor exhaust port spaced apart from the condenser water discharge port.

3. More specifically, the prior art fails to teach or make obvious condensing apparatuses with dish washers having a vapor passage which folds back and forth upon

itself to form a vertical stack of horizontal duct segments, and also having a ridge within, and a condensed water discharge port and vapor exhaust port separate from the condensed water discharge port being formed at the vapor passage.

4. It is noted that regarding Claim 11, the vapor passage necessarily transitions from at least one of the plurality of horizontal parts to an adjacent vertical part, and such structure is implied.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON Y. KO whose telephone number is 571-270-7451. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday; 9:30am-7:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MICHAEL BARR can be reached on 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JYK/
Jason Y. Ko
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1711
26 May 2010

/Michael Barr/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 1711